

**Pauli Bagge in memoriam**

Professor emeritus Pauli Bagge died suddenly and unexpectedly at his home on Midsummer Eve, 19 June 2009. Pauli Bagge was born in Rantasalmi, eastern Finland on 2 August 1938. He obtained a M.Sc. degree in 1966 and a Ph.D. degree in 1969 from the University of Turku.

Pauli Bagge was interested in aquatic life on a wide scope, and already his early papers encompassed the aquatic fauna from subarctic freshwaters of Lapland to benthos of the Baltic sea. As a research assistant at the Zoological Station Kristineberg in Sweden during 1964-66 he studied the benthic fauna of Gullmars Fjord as an indicator of pollution. The same theme continued in his work in the Finnish Marine Research Institute on the environmental effects of nuclear plants, and, in particular, in the summer excursions of the marine research vessel *Aranda* to all the important pollution centres of Finnish marine waters. In 1972 Pauli Bagge was elected as Professor of Biology special field hydrobiology, at the University of Jyväskylä. He held this post until he retired in 2001. During his career he published over 100 scientific articles.

Pauli Bagge was truly an old school naturalist. As such he was always encouraging and supportive to those students who were truly interested in any kind of aquatic creepy-crawlies. He was often equipped with both an insect net and water mite traps, and often also with a light trap for flying insects. His knowledge of species was broad, comprising, in addition to aquatic fauna, also birds, terrestrial insects and plants. During his later years, he also became interested in syrphids.

Bagge was a leading Finnish specialist of aquatic mites. He recognized several species new for the country, and his published studies include the fauna of the rivers Teno, Kemi and Kyrö. Among aquatic insects he studied most intensively caddisflies and stoneflies, and his published and unpublished studies yielded lots of data from all parts of Finland, useful in the assessment of the conservation status of aquatic insects in Finland. Bagge participated also some of the Internal Symposia on Trichoptera. He has contributed articles to the proceedings of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Symposia. With water mites his work continued up to his death; assisted by his daughter Anna, Bagge completed manuscripts on the aquatic Acarina of Estonia and Lake Saimaa, and the last corrections to the catalogue of all water mites recorded from Finland were being done when the fatal attack came.



Pauli Bagge was a colleague for many and a friend to all of us in the aquatic insect specialist group of the committee of the conservation status assessment of Finnish species. As his friends we remember Pauli's positive and jovial character. He was at home in wilderness, game grounds, fishing waters as well as field expeditions.

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